

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application, as presently amended, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-24 are pending in this application. Claims 1-24 stand rejected.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1-3, 10, 14-18, 21 and 24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by **Mori et al.** (U.S. Patent Pub. 2001/0013056, previously cited). Claims 1, 4-9 and 19-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by **Balma et al.** (USP 6,157,945, previously cited). Claims 1, 11-12 and 22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by **Katsikas** (U.S. Pub. 2005/0188045, previously cited). Claims 13 and 23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over **Mori et al.**, as applied to claims 1-3, 10, 14-18, 21 and 24 above, further in view of Official Notice.

Independent claim 1 has been amended to recite “wherein the means for determining includes a table storing a relationship between a plurality of prescribed processing conditions related to the received electronic mail, a plurality of processings corresponding to respective prescribed processing conditions that may be performed in response to the means for determining making a determination that the prescribed processing condition is satisfied, and a plurality of conditions that specifically define the plurality of prescribed processing conditions for each of a plurality of destinations of the received electronic mail, and wherein the means for controlling executes any one of the plurality of prescribed processings in response to the means for determining making a determination that the prescribed processing condition is satisfied.

Independent claims 16 and 17 have been amended similarly. Support for these amendments is provided, e.g., in Fig. 6, column 1; Fig. 6, column 2; and Fig. 7, columns 2-6 and the accompanying description in the specification.

In accordance with the presently claimed invention, a device, such as a facsimile machine, which may be incompatible with another device, such as a computer terminal, may exchange e-mails, even when there are a *variety of reasons* for the incompatibility.

It is respectfully submitted that neither **Mori et al.**, **Balma et al.** nor **Katsikas** disclose or suggest the features recited in independent claims 1, 16 and 17, particularly the stored relationship between a plurality of prescribed processing conditions related to the received electronic mail, a plurality of processings corresponding to respective prescribed processing conditions that may be performed in response to the means for determining making a determination that the prescribed processing condition is satisfied, and a plurality of conditions that specifically define the plurality of prescribed processing conditions for each of a plurality of destinations of the received electronic mail.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections under §102 and §103 are respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, it is submitted that all pending claims are in condition for allowance. A prompt and favorable reconsideration of the rejection and an indication of allowability of all pending claims are earnestly solicited.

Application No.: 10/633,563
Art Unit: 2154

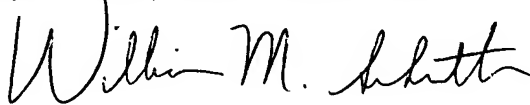
Amendment under 37 C.F.R. §1.116
Attorney Docket No.: 030849

If the Examiner believes that there are issues remaining to be resolved in this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number indicated below to arrange for an interview to expedite and complete prosecution of this case.

If this paper is not timely filed, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. The fees for such an extension or any other fees that may be due with respect to this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-2866.

Respectfully submitted,

WESTERMAN, HATTORI, DANIELS & ADRIAN, LLP

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "William M. Schertler". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "William" and last name "Schertler" clearly distinguishable.

William M. Schertler
Attorney for Applicants
Registration No. 35,348
Telephone: (202) 822-1100
Facsimile: (202) 822-1111

WMS/dlt